

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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R 140654Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8190
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY ADDISABABA
AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP, PFOR, RH, NI, UK
SUBJECT: NIGERIAN OFFICIAL SAYS FMG WOULD BE PREPARED TO URGE BRITISH
TO ASSUME ACTIVE ROLE IN TRANSITIONAL RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT

1. SENATOR DICK CLARK, WHO VISITED NIGERIA DECEMBER 8-11 AT END
OF SIX WEEK TOUR OF EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA, USED OPPORTUNITY
OF MEETING DECEMBER 9 WITH MEA'S ACTING PERMSEC AMBASSADOR JOLAOSO
TO REVIEW HIS IMPRESSIONS OF SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, PARTI-
CULARLY RHODESIA. THE SENATOR SAID HE HAD CONCLUDED THE GENEVA TALKS
ARE LIKELY TO FAIL UNLESS THE UK AGREES TO PLAY AS ACTIVE AND
DIRECT ROLE IN THE PROPOSED TRANSITIONAL RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT.
HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT EITHER THE RHODESIAN FRONT OR THE
NATIONALIST COULD EVER AGREE THAT THE OTHER SHOULD CONTROL THE
POLICE AND ARMED FORCES. THE SENATOR
EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THE ONLY SOLUTION IS FOR UK TO ASSUME "RESIDUAL
COLONIAL RESPONSIBILITIES" FOR THE MINISTRIES OF LAW AND ORDER
AND DEFENSE. HE FELT THAT THE TWO SIDES COULD ACCEPT SUCH A SOLU-
TION BUT AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO PERSUADE A BRITISH
GOVERNMENT BESET WITH A CIVIL WAR IN NORTHERN IRELAND, SERIOUS
ECONOMIC TROUBLES AND A ONE VOTE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY TO ASSUME
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SUCH A ROLE. THE SENATOR SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY

FOR OTHER

GOVERNMENTS, SUCH AS THE U.S. AND NIGERIA, TO EXERT PRESSURE ON THE BRITISH TO CONVINCE THEM TO ACCEPT THE ROLE. HE ASKED FOR JOLAOSO'S REACTION.

2. THE ACTING PERMSEC RESPONDED THAT THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT HAD REACHED A SIMILAR CONCLUSION. THE FMG AGREED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT MUST BE PERSUADED TO ACCEPT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. JOLAOSO INDICATED THAT THE FMG WOULD BE PREPARED TO URGE SUCH A COURSE ON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT (COMMENT: BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION OFFICIALS HERE SAY THAT NIGERIANS HAVE NOT TO DATE MADE ANY SUCH APPROACH IN LAGOS, LONDON OR GENEVA. END COMMENT). JOLAOSO ALSO EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT A SATISFACTORY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WAS PREFERABLE TO CONTINUED FIGHTING.

3. ASKED ABOUT THE STATE OF NIGERIAN-AMERICAN BILATERAL RELATIONS, JOLAOSO TOLD THE SENATOR THEY WERE GOOD AND GETTING BETTER. HE ASKED POLCOUNS (WHO ATTENDED MEETING ALONG WITH SENATOR'S ASSISTANT MARIANNE SPIEGEL AND DIRECTOR MEA'S AMERICAN DEPARTMENT EDREMODA) FOR CONFIRMATION. POLCOUNS REPLIED THAT EXCEPT FOR SOME "OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS" THE PERMSEC WAS CORRECT. JOLAOSO SMILED AND COMMENTED THAT THE BILATERAL PROBLEMS WERE ONLY "ADMINISTRATIVE" ONES.
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